

# Massachusetts Middle School Speech League



Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to announce and invite you to the:  
11th Annual **SPRING FLING** contest to be hosted at

**Charles E. Brown**

125 Meadowbrook Road, Newton, MA 02459

On **SATURDAY, April 7th (snow date April 8<sup>th</sup>)**

We hope that you will be able to bring a group of students to the Fling's three rounds of regular events plus finals (with double entry permitted in standard events) as well as encourage them to try one challenging, fun event in our special Spring Fling Bonus Round (single entry only)! Also special to this tournament: **"5<sup>th</sup> Grade Foray"** includes three activities exclusively for 5th graders (please note special instructions for the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Foray below). Please join us and celebrate our terrific league and camaraderie at this unique tournament! We look forward to seeing you!

Kim Vanaman, Kathy Goldberg, Catherine Granfield

## **SPRING FLING EVENT DETAILS:**

Enclosed, you will find a tentative schedule for the day, a link to [tabroom.com](http://tabroom.com) for registration, and a description of each special Spring Fling Bonus Round and the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Foray to be offered.

Registration Deadline is **Wednesday, April 4th at 9 pm**. **Tournament fees will be considered final by this deadline. Thank you for your support. Any drops the morning of the tournament or the phrase "no changes" must be texted within 7:00-7:45am to Gary Henning at 978-933-1870 to ensure a smooth and on time tournament day for everyone.**

**Regular Event Competition** is open to students in grades 6 through 8 who may choose to participate in one event (experienced competitors may double enter with their coach's permission) in this single-flight tournament. There will be three rounds of competition and finals in KL, Dec, Demo, DP, Duo, FV/Poetry, Impromptu, OO, Prose and Storytelling. 8 Finalists and Honorable Mentions will be recognized. Please visit <http://www.mmsl.weebly.com> for these 10 standard event descriptions. We are asking you to limit your entries to **50** (We have access to the second floor rooms this year) IN REGULAR EVENTS (don't count fling bonus) AND to provide Craig with a separate email of a waitlist with student names and event requested at the same time as you register. Craig has graciously agreed to let you know by the day after registration closes, how many students we can add from the wait list. This will allow us to host as many speakers as we can. Thank you for using this new two part registration and waitlist plan.



Our unique, fun **Spring Fling Bonus Round** will take place right after round 3 and will include the following fun, mostly no prep events: Haiku in a Hurry, Impromptu Children's Lit., Impromptu Sales, Original Literature (any style), Team Improv, Tongue Twister Races, and You're the Expert. There will be no finals and students who receive a 1st from any judge in their round will be recognized with a playful award. Spring Fling Bonus event descriptions are at the end of invite as well as on the MMSSL website: <http://mmssl.weebly.com/>. (Sorry, No Double Entry in Bonus Round)

**Special Note: Students who have been selected as "actors" in this year's judge instructional video will not be able to participate in the bonus round. We will be rehearsing during the bonus round for the filming that will be done at the Milton Foley Fiesta the following month.**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade** is a special partial day program offering for 5th grade speakers only, with the following schedule:

Arrive with designated adult chaperone for the entire time they are on site no later than **11am**, check in at the TAB table and proceed to the auditorium for the instructional session.

**A.** Starts during Round 3 with an instructional session on tournament participation and skills

**B.** Spring Fling Bonus Round: Students will only perform in "5<sup>th</sup> Grade Foray Novice Reading" round with other 5<sup>th</sup> grade entrants in any reading event of their choice: Prose, Free Verse/Poetry, Children's Literature, Declamation, or Play Reading(aka Dramatic Performance) with manuscripts required in any form comfortable to the student (book, cards, sleeves, binder, tablet, etc.) These events will use the same event descriptions (minus memorization requirements) and ballots from our website. They will receive their ballots and any student receiving a rank of 1<sup>st</sup> will be recognized.

**C.** Observe a final round of the event of their choice. **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

Each team bringing 5<sup>th</sup> graders must designate (and provide their name to us) one Adult whose only responsibility is to supervise and support the 5<sup>th</sup> graders from your team while they are at the tournament (later arrival permitted). 5<sup>th</sup> Graders are required to attend all three activities listed above. Spring Fling Bonus Round option for 5<sup>th</sup> graders is only the "Novice Reading" event. Please see event descriptions at the end of this invitation

All students not entered in the Bonus Round or later, not breaking to finals are expected to attend and observe an event during those rounds, serving as respectful and supportive audience members.

**Absolutely no cell phone use in the rounds and professional behavior is a requirement for all.**

**JUDGES:** Each school must provide **ONE JUDGE PER FIVE regular event ENTRIES** (Note: one duo pair equals a single entry when making your judge count). Parents, teachers or other interested adults may serve as judges. High school students who have experience in speech are also welcome to judge.

**ENTRY FEES:** \$7 per solo student entry for all events, regular, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Foray or bonus round; \$14 per duo or Team Improv. pair. Please make checks out to: Newton Community Education

**We are using Tabroom.com for all registration (regular events, bonus round and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Foray).**

A variety of breakfast items will be on sale in the cafeteria upon your arrival, and there will be pizza available for purchase for lunch. Beverages and snacks will be on sale throughout the day. All fruit is free all day long. Judges receive free beverages all day long.

Please feel free to reply and/or call (857) 636-8644 with questions or concerns

Kim\_Vanaman@newton.k12.ma.us



## SPRING FLING tentative SCHEDULE APRIL 7, 2018

7:00 – 7:45 Text any drops or “no changes” to Gary Henning at 978-933-1870

8:00 -8:15 Arrival and Registration; breakfast will be available for purchase

8:30 Judges Meeting and Student Warm Up time

Students should return to the cafeteria in between rounds. Each round will be announced in the cafeteria when it is time for students to head to their next round.

9:15 Round 1

10:15 Round (optional arrival for 5<sup>th</sup> grade participants and their chaperones at 11:00)

11:15 Round 3

Lunch will be available for purchase beginning at 12:00noon

1:00 Spring Fling Bonus Round Special Events

2:00 Finals of Regular Events Announced

2:15 Finals

3:30 Presentation of Awards

Estimated departure 4:30



## SPECIAL “SPRING FLING” BONUS ROUND EVENTS 2018

- **Haiku in a Hurry:** In this solo event a student will pull three prompts at random, quickly select one and have five minutes in which to prepare and present a Haiku poem (3 Lines: 5 Syllables, 7 syllables, 5 syllables) inspired by the chosen “jump start.” Students may use a 3x5 index card to compose their poem and are required to read the “jumpstart” as the poem’s title when they deliver their Haiku. Judge will provide audible, verbal time signals while the student is composing their Haiku poem and visual signals once they begin to speak. Please note: In this category, it is vital to comment upon both the content and the delivery of the student’s Haiku poem. **Time limit: 5 minutes with a 30-second grace period including both the preparation and delivery, divided at the student’s discretion. Judges must provide verbal and visual time signals.**
- **Impromptu Children’s Literature:** In this solo event a student will pull 3 short, one-page stories and quickly decide which they would like to perform. The timer begins when they make their selection. They then prepare and practice aloud to a wall while making decisions on voices, pops, gestures and tone while a judge provides audible, verbal time signals. Note: Students are not judged during practice. Once the performer is ready, they will present the piece utilizing appropriate skills to bring the story to life, using no props or costumes. Students should strive to bring the material to life in a natural, realistic and believable way. Students are required to read the title and author of the work when they begin. Judges should switch to visual time signals once the student has begun to perform. **Time limit: 7 minutes with a 30-second grace period, including prep time, divided at the student’s discretion. Judges must provide verbal and visual time signals.**
- **Impromptu Sales:** In this solo event, the student will pull one image of an object (which may be familiar but most likely unknown) from a “for sale bag” and then have 5 minutes to both prepare and present a short, coherent “sales pitch” inspired by the newly named picture in hand. Students may use one 3 X 5 card to prepare. Judges should provide audible, verbal time signals while the student is preparing and then switch to visual time signals once the sales pitch begins. The presentation should have a logical beginning, middle and end and should be designed to “sell” that item to the audience. The presentation may be humorous or serious in nature and knowledge of the true function of the item is unnecessary. It is an opportunity for a contestant to be creative and imaginative. **Time limit: 5 minutes with a 30 second grace period for both preparation and delivery, which may be divided at the student’s discretion. Judges must provide verbal and visual time signals.**



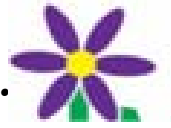
- **Novice Reading:** In this solo event a student will present a selection from any of the following regular speech events: prose, children’s literature, free verse/poetry, dramatic performance or declamation from a readily accessible, required text using no props or costumes. Students should strive to bring the material to life using voice, facial expressions, body and gestures. Students are required to provide brief introductory remarks at some point, which must at least identify the title and author (and date and place for Declamation) of the work.  
**Time limit: 7 minutes, with a 30 second grace period. Judges should offer to provide visual time signals.**
- **Original Literature:** A performance of an original piece of writing in any literary style: prose, children’s literature, free verse/poetry, dramatic performance or duo delivered from text, notes or from memory by one or two students. The rules of the event that the writing falls under will govern the delivery (Ex. eye and physical contact limitation rules apply if the presentation is a duo). The material may be humorous or serious in nature, and both the writing and the delivery will be evaluated. The authorship may be collaborative but must be only student written and totally original. The introduction need only provide the title(s) and (optional) set the scene.  
**Time limit: 7 minutes with a 30-second grace period. Judges should offer to provide visual time signals.**
- **Team Improv:** This is a two-person event. After pulling two character slips and two location/object slips the team will consult and plan with each other to create a skit utilizing the four prompts. Judges will provide audible, verbal time signals while the team prepares and switch to visual time signals once the skit begins. This event challenges the team (each portraying one character) to create a dynamic skit utilizing appropriate vocal expression, gesture, and interaction between partners. As a unit, the two performers will vocally and physically respond to each other’s verbal and non-verbal cues so that the environment is created in the minds of the audience. Performers may not use notes, props or costumes. Both students should participate in the presentation and create a well-organized and balanced skit with a beginning, middle and end. It may be either humorous or serious in nature.  
**Time limit: 7 minutes with a 30-second grace period, including prep time, divided at the students' discretion. Judges must provide verbal and then visual time signals.**
- **Tongue Twister Races:** In this solo event, students first check in, give their ballots to the judges, and are reminded of the speaker order. Then all but the first speaker will leave the room to wait quietly down the hall out of hearing. The first student will then be given the short tongue twister and have 30 seconds to practice it, un-judged, while timed by the judge (it is recommended that speakers practice this out loud to a wall like a warm up). The judges will inform the speaker when the practice time is complete; judges will then reset the timer and indicate they are ready. The student will then deliver the tongue twister with clarity, diction, reading for meaning and with correct pronunciation as quickly as possible but trying to be without stumbles or errors. Students will be evaluated on all these skills, and being errorless will be more important than speed. Once the student has finished, they will go into the hall and invite the next speaker into the room. They will also return to the room to serve as respectful audience for the rest of the round. **30 seconds for practice; performance has no time limit – self-limiting by length. Judges indicate start and stop of practice time.**
- **You’re the Expert:** In this solo event a student will pull 3 “expert” titles/ professional expertise areas written on the outside of folded, sealed interview questions from a master envelope and quickly select one expert to portray (without opening or pre-reading the questions). The other two experts papers should be returned to the master envelope. The student should then hand the chosen folded interview questions to the judge, and move to the front of the room. The judge will open the expert interview questions paper, start the timer and read the interview questions, one at



a time and pause to allow the student to answer each in turn. The paper will have a total of 5 questions to ask the “expert” about his/her selected field. Knowledge of the expert’s field is not required and the responses may be humorous or serious in nature, however, students should strive for a natural, realistic and convincing portrayal. Content and delivery should both be evaluated.  
**Time Limit: 7 minutes with a 30 second grace period or 5 questions, whichever comes first.**

**Thank you Coaches!**

**We look forward to seeing you on the 7th..**



**Hopefully by then, spring will have sprung!**

